

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01577 091746 Z

61

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 NSC-10 SS-14

STR-08 CEA-02 P-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 TAR-02 AGR-20 /164 W
----- 012069

R 091530 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1202

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1577

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING: FEBRUARY

REF: BA-1061

1. FEBRUARY CONSUMER PRICE INDEX UP 7.6 PERCENT ABOVE JANUARY LEVEL, RESULTING IN INCREASE OF 69.5 PERCENT OVER LAST 12 MONTHS. (WE ESTIMATE MONTHLY INCREASE ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS AT 8.1 PERCENT)

2. ONCE AGAIN RISING FOOD PRICES CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO INCREASE. FOOD CATEGORY AS A WHOLE UP 11.6 PERCENT, WHILE MEAT PRODUCTS UP 19.7 PERCENT. CLOTHING UP 2.6 PERCENT, GENERAL EXPENDITURES 1.1 PERCENT, AND HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT 1.4 PERCENT. HOUSING COSTS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

3. DESPITE RECENT GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO CONTROL BEEF PRICES AND TEMPORARY LOWERING OF PRICES OF LIVE CATTLE ON LINIERS MARKET IN SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY, TREND IS ONCE AGAIN UP, WITH RECORD PRICES OVER 4.90 PESOS PER LIVE KILO SET ON MARCH 8. WITH UTILITY RATE INCREASES (ESP. ELECTRICITY AND GAS) REPORTEDLY IMMINENT DESPITE RECENT DECLARATION BY GOA THAT THESE RATES WOULD NOT BE INCREASED, OUTLOOK ON PRICE FRONT NOT EN - COURAGING.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 01577 091746 Z

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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